

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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FOR SECRETARY THROUGH HABIB FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PFOR, EG, US, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT:ACTION MEMORANDUM: PROPOSED PRESS READOUT AND
Q'S AND A'S FOR SADAT VISIT (S/S NO. 7708858)

1. FOLLOWING IS THE READ-OUT STATEMENT FOR THE PRESS, WITH
SUGGESTED Q'S AND A'S, WHICH I PROPOSE BE GIVEN THE WHITE
HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY FOR USE AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S

FIRST MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT APRIL 4. I PROPOSE WE
COORDINATE THE READ-OUT STATEMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
FAHMY UPON ARRIVAL OF THE SADAT PARTY IN WASHINGTON SUNDAY.
WE FOLLOWED THIS PRACTICE WITH THE ISRAELIS.

2. TEXT OF WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT FOLLOWING FIRST MEETING
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BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT,
APRIL 4, 1977:

PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRESIDENT SADAT MET IN THE OVAL
OFFICE (CABINET ROOM) FOR MINUTES. THE MEETING WAS
ALSO ATTENDED BY SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE AND (BLANK)
ON THE AMERICAN SIDE, (BLANK) ON THE EGYPTIAN SIDE.

THE PRESIDENT BEGAN BY EXPRESSING HIS GREAT SATISFACTION
THAT PRESIDENT SADAT COULD BE THE FIRST ARAB LEADER TO

VISIT HIM IN WASHINGTON, AND HIS APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT SADAT'S LEADERSHIP IN THE SEARCH FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE. BOTH LEADERS EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THESE MEETINGS BETWEEN THEM WILL ESTABLISH PERSONAL TIES OF TRUST, UNDERSTANDING, AND MUTUAL CONFIDENCE THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE PURSUIT OF PEACE. BOTH AGREED THAT THE CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND THE UNITED STATES, DEMONSTRATED ALREADY IN PRESIDENT SADAT'S EARLIER STATE VISIT, FORM A FIRM BASIS FOR MAKING THE PROGRESS TO WHICH BOTH ARE COMMITTED IN 1977.

IN THEIR TALKS THIS MORNING, PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRESIDENT SADAT CONCENTRATED ON HOW TO ADVANCE THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IN FULL AND WIDE-RANGING EXCHANGES, THEY DISCUSSED IN DETAIL THE CENTRAL ELEMENTS OF A SETTLEMENT: PEACE, PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN NEGOTIATIONS, BORDERS, SECURITY, AND A RESOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE. THEY AGREED THAT THE TIME IS RIGHT FOR A MAJOR EFFORT TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS, AND REAFFIRMED THAT THEY WILL WORK TOWARD RECONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IN THE LATTER HALF OF 1977. TO THIS END, THEY AGREED FURTHER THAT THEY AND THEIR GOVERNMENTS WOULD MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT AS EFFORTS GO FORWARD TO WORK OUT WAYS TO RECONVENE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND TO ACHIEVE A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT. THE PRESIDENT UNDERLINED HIS DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE AMERICAN EFFORTS

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TO HELP THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT REACH THIS GOAL.

THE TWO PRESIDENTS ALSO DISCUSSED VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND THE UNITED STATES AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT THE EXCELLENT STATE OF THOSE RELATIONS. PRESIDENT CARTER EXPRESSED HIS ADMIRATION FOR PRESIDENT SADAT'S STEADFAST EFFORTS IN THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FIELDS TO IMPROVE THE WELL-BEING OF THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE. HE ASSURED PRESIDENT SADAT OF CONTINUED AMERICAN ECONOMIC SUPPORT, SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL, FOR EXPANDING THE EGYPTIAN ECONOMY. PRESIDENT SADAT THANKED PRESIDENT CARTER FOR THIS ASSISTANCE AND REAFFIRMED HIS DESIRE TO ATTRACT FOREIGN CAPITAL TO EGYPT. THE TWO PRESIDENTS AGREED THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS SHOULD CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WHERE POSSIBLE IN SEEKING WAYS TO STIMULATE OUTSIDE PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN EGYPT. PRESIDENT CARTER ONCE AGAIN THANKED HIS GUEST FOR MAKING AVAILABLE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THE EXHIBITION OF

TREASURES FROM THE TOMB OF KING TUTANKHAMUN, WHICH THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF FOUND EXTRAORDINARY IN ITS BEAUTY AND AN IMPORTANT MEANS FOR BRINGING OUR TWO PEOPLES STILL CLOSER TOGETHER. THE TWO LEADERS CONCLUDED THAT THE DEEPENING

TIES BETWEEN THEIR TWO COUNTRIES COMPLIMENT AND REINFORCE THE WIDER EFFORTS TO MOVE TOWARD A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH WILL BENEFIT ALL THE STATES AND PEOPLES OF THE REGION AND FURTHER THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN THE WORLD.

THE DISCUSSIONS ON BILATERAL MATTERS AND PEACE EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST WILL CONTINUE AT A WORKING DINNER THE PRESIDENT IS HAVING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT THIS EVENING. ALSO TO INSURE THAT BOTH HAVE THE FULLEST UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER'S POINT OF VIEW, THEY HAVE AGREED TO HAVE ANOTHER MEETING HERE TOMORROW MORNING AT (BLANK).

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3. PROPOSED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

A. ARMS FOR EGYPT:

QUESTION: DID THE TWO PRESIDENTS DISCUSS NEW AMERICAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR EGYPT, AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

ANSWER: --PRESIDENT SADAT HAS SAID PREVIOUSLY THAT HE WANTED TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE NEW AMERICAN MILITARY SALES TO EGYPT, AND THE SUBJECT DID COME UP TODAY.

--THE DISCUSSIONS WERE IN GENERAL TERMS, AND NO COMMITMENTS OR DECISIONS WERE MADE, NOR WOULD THEY BE MADE WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS. BEYOND THAT, I HAVE NO DETAILS ON THIS DISCUSSION FOR YOU.

IF PRESSED ON WHAT SADAT ASKED AND THE AMERICAN POSITION ON NEW SALES:

--LET'S PUT THIS MATTER IN PERSPECTIVE. THE PURPOSE OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT IS NOT TO WORK OUT AN ARMS DEAL WITH THE UNITED STATES. IT IS TO GIVE PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRESIDENT SADAT AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE IN DEPTH POSSIBLE WAYS TO MOVE THE PEACE PROCESS FORWARD IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

--PRESIDENT SADAT SAID PUBLICLY (ON "60 MINUTES", CBS TELEVISION) THAT HE WANTED TO DISCUSS NEW MILITARY EQUIPMENT, AND SOME OF THE ITEMS HE DESIRES. THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY SAID WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS

MATTER--AMONG MANY OTHERS TO BE DISCUSSED IN THIS VISIT.

--THESE ARE NOT DECISION-MAKING SESSIONS, NOR WERE THEY EVER INTENDED TO BE. THE PRESIDENT WILL HAVE TO GIVE SERI-

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OUS CONSIDERATION TO THIS DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT SADAT.
--AS YOU KNOW, HE HAS ORDERED AN ADMINISTRATION REVIEW OF
OUR ARMS EXPORT POLICY, AND THE CONCLUSIONS OF THAT
REVIEW WILL HAVE A BEARING ON ANY DECISION ABOUT MILITARY
EQUIPMENT FOR EGYPT. I CANNOT PREDICT WHEN THAT REVIEW
WILL BE COMPLETED.

(BACKGROUND FOR SPOKESMAN, WHICH CAN BE USED IN EXPLAINING
ADMINISTRATION POSITION):

--ALSO, THE PRESIDENT WILL BE GUIDED IN THIS MATTER BY THE
THREE CRITERIA ON ARMS DECISIONS FOR THE MIDDLE EAST
FIRST LAID OUT BY SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE IN HIS
CONFIRMATION HEARINGS BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN
RELATIONS COMMITTEE:

-- --WHETHER THE ARMS REQUESTS MEET THE LEGITIMATE
-- SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OF THE COUNTRY REQUEST-
-- ING.

-- --WHETHER THE ARMS UPSET THE BALANCE IN THE
-- MIDDLE EAST.

-- --WHAT IMPACT THE ACTION WILL HAVE ON THE
-- PEACE PROCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

B. PALESTINIAN QUESTION:

QUESTION: DID THE TWO PRESIDENTS MAKE ANY PROGRESS ON HOW
TO GET OVER THE PLO OBSTACLE MOVING TOWARD GENEVA, AND ON
WHAT FORM A PALESTINIAN "HOMELAND" SHOULD TAKE IN THE
RESULTING NEGOTIATIONS?

ANSWER: --THE PURPOSE OF THESE TALKS TODAY AND TOMORROW
IS TO GIVE BOTH PRESIDENTS THE FULLEST OPPORTUNITY TO
GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER AND TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S
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THINKING ON HOW TO MOVE FORWARD IN THE PEACE PROCESS.

--THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE DID COME UP, AND BOTH LEADERS
EXPRESSED IDEAS ON ITS VARIOUS ASPECTS.

--THEY AGREED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF FINDING WAYS TO DEAL
WITH THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE IF THE PEACE PROCESS IS TO
MOVE FORWARD.

--THEY DISCUSSED VARIOUS POSSIBLE WAYS OF RESOLVING THE PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION QUESTION AND THE FORMS A PALESTINIAN SETTLEMENT MIGHT TAKE.

-- PRESIDENT CARTER HAS YET TO MEET WITH OTHER MIDDLE EAST LEADERS, HOWEVER, AND IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS ABOUT WHICH PARTICULAR COURSE OF ACTION MIGHT BE THE BEST WAY TO PROCEED ON THE PALESTINIAN OR OTHER QUESTIONS.

IF PRESSED ON THE AMERICAN POSITION:

--THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT POSITION ON THE PLO REMAINS UNCHANGED: WE DO NOT SEE HOW THE PLO CAN JOIN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS SO LONG AS IT REFUSES TO ACCEPT THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL AND SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 WHICH CONSTITUTE THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

--WE BELIEVE THAT IN THE FIRST INSTANCE THE ARAB GOVERNMENTS THEMSELVES MUST DECIDE HOW THEY WANT TO SOLVE THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AND THEN, SECONDLY, THESE COUNTRIES MUST NEGOTIATE A SOLUTION WITH ISRAEL.

IF ASKED ABOUT RECENT CAIRO MEETING OF PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL:

--SINCE THE RECENT 15-POINT DECLARATION OF THE PALESTINE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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NATIONAL COUNCIL IN CAIRO DID NOT MOVE TOWARD ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL OR THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT CONTRIBUTED TO PROGRESS IN THE PEACE PROCESS.

C. MIDDLE EAST BOUNDARIES AND DEFENSE LINES:

QUESTION: DID PRESIDENT CARTER FIND SADAT ANY MORE COMPROMISING THAN HE HAS BEEN PUBLICLY AGAINST ALLOWING ISRAEL TO KEEP ANY ARAB TERRITORY OR, AT LEAST, TO HAVE DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ISRAEL ONCE IT WITHDRAWS FROM THAT ARAB TERRITORY?

ANSWER: --THE STATEMENT INDICATES THAT THEY DISCUSSED THE KEY ISSUES INVOLVED IN A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT. ONE OF THOSE OBVIOUSLY IS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON FINAL BORDERS AND ON SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

--THE OTHER PARTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT, AS SECRETARY VANCE CONCLUDED IN HIS MIDDLE EAST VISIT, ARE THE NATURE OF THE FINAL PEACE AND HOW TO RESOLVE THE

PALESTINIAN ISSUE.

--PRESIDENT CARTER FOUND THE DISCUSSION MOST FRUITFUL IN HELPING HIM UNDERSTAND FIRST-HAND THE THINKING OF ONE OF THE KEY PARTICIPANTS IN THE PEACE PROCESS.

--BEYOND THAT, I HAVE NO DETAILS FOR YOU.

D. ECONOMIC AID FOR EGYPT:

QUESTION: HOW MUCH ECONOMIC AID IS THE UNITED STATES PROVIDING EGYPT THIS YEAR? HOW MUCH IS PROPOSED FOR NEXT YEAR? DID PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRESIDENT CARTER DISCUSS INCREASING THE AID LEVELS?

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ANSWER: --IN FY 1977 (THIS YEAR) EGYPT RECEIVED 700 MILLION DOLLARS IN ECONOMIC, DEVELOPMENTAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, PLUS JUST OVER 212 MILLION DOLLARS UNDER PL 480 FOOD PROGRAMS: TOTAL: 912 MILLION DOLLARS.

--FOR FY 1978 (NEXT YEAR), WE HAVE PROPOSED TO CONGRESS THAT EGYPT RECEIVE 750 MILLION DOLLARS IN ECONOMIC, DEVELOPMENTAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND 146 MILLION DOLLARS UNDER PL 480 PROGRAMS: TOTAL 896 MILLION DOLLARS.

--CONGRESS IS CONSIDERING OUR LATEST AID PROPOSALS, WHICH THE PRESIDENT FEELS ARE NECESSARY TO GIVE STRONG AMERICAN SUPPORT TO THE EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND STEPS EGYPT IS TAKING TO RESTRUCTURE ITS ECONOMY.

--HE AND PRESIDENT SADAT DISCUSSED THIS EGYPTIAN PROGRAM IN GENERAL TERMS. THEY DID NOT DISCUSS WHAT FUTURE AID LEVELS MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE AS THAT PROGRAM GOES FORWARD.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT YOU APPROVE THE READ-OUT STATEMENT AND THE Q'S AND A'S, AND AUTHORIZE THEIR TRANSMISSION TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

APPROVE:

DISAPPROVE:

ADDITIONALLY, THAT YOU AUTHORIZE ME TO PROVIDE A COPY OF THE STATEMENT TO FAHMY FOR COORDINATION WITH THE EGYPTIANS.

APPROVE:

DISAPPROVE:

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5. DRAFTED BY NEA/P-GFSHERMAN; APPROVED BY NEA-MR. ATHERTON

6. CLEARED BY S/PRS-MR. BROWN; D-B.LYNN PASCOE

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